

## **Washington Update December 31, 2003**

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### **1. Congressional Gilmore Commission Findings**

In a report to the President and Congress, the Gilmore Commission recommended the creation of the Federal Office for Emergency Medical Services, EMS funding, and enhancement of EMS response capacity for acts of terrorism. The report includes a news release, executive summary, and a list of key recommendations. To view the *Advocates for EMS* position, visit [www.advocatesforems.org](http://www.advocatesforems.org). For the complete report, visit <http://www.rand.org/nsrd/terrpanel>.

### **2. Intelligent Transportation Systems Earmarks**

Within the \$33.8 billion allocated for federal-aid highways, \$232 million has been appropriated for intelligent transportation systems (ITS). These funds will allow state DOTs to procure communications and information technologies used to manage traffic on the surface transportation system and manage major incidents on the highways. For a complete list of ITS earmarks, contact Jason Conley at [jconley@comcare.org](mailto:jconley@comcare.org).

### **3. National Public Health Week 2004**

The American Public Health Association (APHA) is sponsoring the National Public Health Week 2004, which will be held on April 5-11. This year's theme is "Eliminating Health Disparities: Communities Moving From Statistics to Solutions." For more information, contact Lakitia Mayo, Director of Grassroots Advocacy and Affiliate Affairs, at [lakitia.mayo@apha.org](mailto:lakitia.mayo@apha.org).

### **4. HHS Awards Nearly \$30 Million to States to Offset Costs of Health Insurance**

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced awards of nearly \$30 million in grants to 16 states that provide health insurance to residents who cannot get conventional health coverage because of severe illness. The grants will be used by the states to offset losses that they incurred in the operation of high-risk pools, which are typically state-created non-profit associations that offers health coverage to individuals with serious medical conditions. To learn more, contact Marcia Mabee at [mmabee@ix.netcom.com](mailto:mmabee@ix.netcom.com).

### **5. NAEMSE Invites EMS Educators to Participate in SEERP**

NAEMSE announced that invitations to participate in the State of EMS Education Research Project Survey (SEERP) have been forwarded to EMS Educators across the United States. The results of the data received will identify the demographics and attributes of EMS instructors and the trends in the current EMS education infrastructure. To participate in the survey, contact Linda Abrahamson at (815) 740-7130 ext 3.

#### **6. FEMA Mutual Aid Web Site Debut**

FEMA has developed a Web site specifically for its Mutual Aid project. The first initiative product on the Web site is "The Glossary of Terms and Definitions." For more information, visit [http://www.fema.gov/preparedness/mutual\\_aid.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/preparedness/mutual_aid.shtm).